



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 20, 2005

The Honorable Richard F. "Ric" Williamson
Chairman
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Dear Chairman Williamson:

The Texas forest industry was greatly impacted by Hurricane Rita. An estimated 967 million cubic feet of Texas timber, worth \$833 million, have been affected. The estimated amount of damaged timber that requires salvage nearly equals the entire volume of timber harvested in all of East Texas in 2004. The Hurricane Rita Forest Recovery Task Force has set a goal of salvaging 40 percent of the damaged timber and is currently working under the September 23, 2005, waiver letter that expires October 31, 2005. The task force estimates that it will take several months to meet this goal.

To facilitate this salvage, I direct the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to suspend all oversize/overweight permitting requirements and fees for motor carriers involved in the transport of timber damaged as a result of Hurricane Rita.

The following exceptions apply to this waiver:

- loads cannot exceed 5 percent over allowable gross weight;
- loads cannot exceed posted weight limits on bridges; and
- carriers transporting loads that exceed 14' high are required to contact TxDOT's Motor Carrier Division at 512/465-3592 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or 512/658-1149 outside of normal business hours.

I direct that all requirements concerning Motor Carrier Registration, Single State Registration, the International Registration Plan, and the International Fuel Tax Agreement be suspended for motor carriers traveling within or into Texas to assist with efforts directly related to salvaging timber damaged as a result of Hurricane Rita. I am also suspending the requirements regarding

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the purchase of trip permits for registration and fuel for commercial motor carriers engaged in these efforts.

I direct the Texas Department of Public Safety to suspend all size and weight enforcement for motor carriers involved in efforts directly relating to salvaging damaged timber.

All insurance, commercial driver's license, and safety requirements associated with the above mentioned permits, registration, and programs are not suspended and remain in effect. Motor carriers traveling into or within Texas must, at the minimum, have liability insurance at limits required by Texas or their home state.

I ask that all Texas law enforcement and other federal and state officials honor this letter as a blanket permit issued to the motor carriers directly involved with the Hurricane Rita Forest Recovery Task Force efforts.

This waiver will be in effect until March 31, 2006, unless extended or repealed.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping "R" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:khp

cc: The Honorable Carol Keeton Strayhorn, Comptroller of Public Accounts
Ms. Colleen McHugh, Chairman, Public Safety Commission, DPS
Michael W. Behrens, P.E., Executive Director, TxDOT